

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7442

BILL NUMBER: SB 576

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Pawnbrokers.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Taylor

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill requires a pawnbroker to return immediately a stolen item to an individual who alleges that the item was stolen from the individual if the individual presents the pawnbroker with:

- (1) a police report demonstrating that the item has been stolen; and
- (2) a receipt that identifies the stolen item.

It specifies that, if a pawnbroker returns a stolen item to an individual, the pawnbroker shall also allow the individual to inspect and copy the bill of sale signed by the seller of the stolen item.

The bill provides that a pawnbroker who returns a stolen item to its owner has a cause of action against the person who sold or pledged the item.

It also makes conforming amendments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: The venue of a cause of action will depend on the value of the stolen item. For items with a value less than \$6,000, the case is heard by a county small claims court, if one exists. (In Marion County, it is a township small claims court that hears these cases.)

If additional civil actions occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund may increase.

A small claims fee of \$35 would be assessed when a small claims action is filed, and a civil costs fee of \$100 would be assessed when a civil case is filed. Seventy percent of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record, or 55% would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a city or town court. In addition, some or all of the document storage fee (\$2), automated record keeping fee (\$7), judicial salaries fee (\$18), public defense administration fee (\$3), court administration fee (\$5), and the judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1) are deposited into the state General Fund. Additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of case.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional civil actions occur, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources. The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$35 small claims fee, or \$100 civil costs fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. Additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of case.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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